



ANNUAL REPORT

AND FUND ACCOUNTABILITY STATEMENT

FOR YEARS 2020 & 2021



“We help government, public institutions, businesses, and local communities solve complex problems related to corruption.”

CERC ANNUAL REPORT

FY 2020 AND 2021

The Administration Board is pleased to present its 2020–2021 report and the fund accountability statement covering January 1, 2020, and December 31, 2021. The fund accountability statement complies with the Articles of Association and Accounting and Reporting Procedures.

WHO WE ARE

CERC is a DRC-based nonprofit organization that empowers youth and local communities to solve complex problems related to corruption.

Founded in April 2017 to find answers to the following questions:

- How can communities obtain better services using integrity?
- How can we teach integrity to equip the next generation of leaders to say no to corruption?
- How can integrity be a sustainable response to conflict and instability in eastern Congo?

We have begun to answer these challenging questions by directing our attention to research and investments in education. Through these focus areas, we helped communities and young people build the skills necessary to hold their leaders accountable, cultivate a new generation of ethical leaders, and to combat inefficient and corrupt public services and infrastructure projects in DRC.

OUR MISSION

Our mission is to advance knowledge on the causes and consequences of corruption and support the development of new anti-corruption policies and initiatives in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

OUR VISION

CERC is working towards a Congo in which :

- Government, Politics, Businesses, Civil Society are free from corruption.
- Individuals and groups are empowered with knowledge and skills to take action to claim and defend their human rights and the rights of others.
- Local leadership capacity emerges to influence decision-makers and hold governments accountable to the needs and aspirations of citizens;

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

2021 saw the revision of CERC's strategic plan in consultation with all staff and board members. The reviewed strategy contains four ambitious goals underpinned by the following core values: accountability, innovation, equality and non-discrimination, meaningful participation, equitable partnership, mutual respect, and trust. Our new strategy is summarized on page 4.

The last twenty-four months have been challenging for our team working towards this strategy and our shared values. The COVID-19 crisis has significantly impacted fundraising, and we were forced to reduce our operations by closing the Uvira and Bukavu offices in South Kivu. Even if COVID-19 brought specific challenges to our organization, it also provided us an opportunity to understand better our weaknesses as an organization. Now, we reflect on our successes, failures, and progress and use what we have learned to strengthen our organization most effectively.

Our revised strategy 2022-2025 provides mitigation measures against the impact of Covid-19 and future crises that may affect our operations and functioning. With this strategy, we demonstrate our willingness to innovate and take bold steps to accomplish our mission of holding the powerful accountable for the common good.

CERC continues to work in highly challenging conditions, and we are expecting the years ahead to be wealthy. We remain encouraged by and grateful for the continued support and generosity of existing donors and new donors who joined us this year and have helped us keep our work going.

Highlights of the year included:

- In 2020, CERC was accredited as an ordinary member of the UNCAC Coalition. The UNCAC Coalition is a global network of over 350 civil society organizations (CSOs) in over 100 countries, committed to promoting the ratification, implementation, and monitoring of the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC).
- In 2020, CERC was approved as a Catalyst 2030 member - a global movement of social innovators to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

- In July 2021, the United Nations granted CERC the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) 's special consultative status.
- In July 2021, CERC secured USD 73,653,89 from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX).
- In 2021, CERC secured 858,942 USD from Global Partnership for Education through OXFAM IBIS to support the Students Acting for Accountability and Quality Education in Kinshasa and South-Kivu.
- In 2021, CERC brought together over 600 education stakeholders for a series of consultations, focusing on improving accountability in education.
- In 2021, The UNCAC Coalition Secretariat commissioned the CERC to produce the Civil Society Report on the implementation by the Democratic Republic of the Congo of the United Nations Convention Against Corruption (UNCAC). The report shared a hundred recommendations to GODRC and will be shared widely with policymakers and the sector, used in briefings to several coalitions, and referenced by the UN.
- In 2021, CERC deepened its commitment to growing the role of young people in local development by supporting 10 youth-led initiatives across Kinshasa with funding support from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID).



Figure 1: Senior education officials during consultative workshop in Kinshasa, 27 July 2021. Photo: Heri Bitamala, CERC

CERC STRATEGIC GOALS

In 2020 and 2021, we focused on four prioritized and strategic goals. We perceive them as a single integrated activity, each reinforcing the others. These four prioritized activities impact four critical areas of Congolese society: the people, values, institutions, and laws.

GOAL 1:

Diagnose corruption issues and use findings as a reference to stimulate more informed debates and formulate further projects on anti-corruption

GOAL 2:

Build and support partnerships and coalitions of civil society organizations to fight corruption more effectively+3

GOAL 3:

Engage citizens and young people in promoting integrity more actively

GOAL 4:

Build governance foundations and operational structures and processes for scaling up anti-corruption and integrity building works in other provinces

OUR VALUES

EQUALITY & NON-DISCRIMINATION

- We affirm our commitment to equality, social justice, and respect for human dignity for all.
- Our efforts to advance equality and non-discrimination are pillars on which we build our programs.
- We work to overcome the imbalances in power that led to inequalities to establish equality between men, women, and those who do not identify as one or the other – in society and within our organization.
- We do not discriminate based on race, religion, ability, age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or social status in our interactions and with external stakeholders. We recognize and work to alleviate the impact of intersecting forms of discrimination.
- We prevent violence, discrimination, and harassment in all their forms in the context of our programs and internal operations.

MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

- Meaningful participation is a fundamental right. It is a crucial ingredient in achieving empowerment and realizing all human rights.
- We intentionally create opportunities for participation and build the capacity of those who face barriers to participation.
- Meaningful participation of our team members and partners in all stages of our project cycle is critical to our success.
- We view stakeholders and beneficiaries as crucial agents of change – not mere recipients – and encourage their active engagement and participation as mutual learning and co-creation opportunities.
- We foster a climate that encourages the free expression of opinions and ideas, and we consider the views of others.

ACCOUNTABILITY

- We are accountable to our stakeholders and the beneficiaries of our actions and act consistently with our human rights principles and values.
- We maintain a high level of integrity and transparency.
- We respect our commitments to stakeholders, beneficiaries, and each other.

- We transparently communicate our expectations and engage in regular dialogue with stakeholders, beneficiaries, and each other to ensure follow-up.
- We recognize and learn from our mistakes.

MUTUAL RESPECT AND TRUST

- We respect and trust each other and those with whom we work.
- We listen to and try to understand our colleagues, partners, and others.
- We recognize the critical role of open dialogue in our success.
- Our openness and transparency build confidence and contribute to the fulfillment of our mission.

EQUITABLE PARTNERSHIP

- Collaboration is fundamental to the success of our mission.
- We develop strategic alliances and partnerships based on a shared vision and priorities with those who share our commitment to advancing human rights and integrity.
- We recognize that we cannot be successful unless we work in mutually beneficial, sustainable partnerships.
- We recognize and respect the knowledge and experience of our partners, and our partnerships provide a forum for mutual learning.
- We recognize that equitable partnerships require investments of time and energy and that open dialogue is critical to acknowledge and address power dynamics within these relationships.

INNOVATION

- We seek to be at the forefront of integrity and anti-corruption education practice to respond to the evolving needs in the communities where we work.
- We strive to make use of new technological advances and learning to enhance the reach and impact of our programs.
- We learn from our experiences and create innovative solutions that drive our mission and motivation.

PROGRESS IN 2020 AND 2021

GOAL 1 **DIAGNOSE CORRUPTION ISSUES AND USE FINDINGS AS A REFERENCE TO STIMULATE MORE INFORMED DEBATES AND FORMULATE FURTHER PROJECTS ON ANTI-CORRUPTION**



Although corruption and lack of accountability in public and private sectors is a well-known phenomenon, whether people talk about it openly or not will depend on reliable sources of information.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

RESULT 1:
CONSULTATIONS WITH EDUCATION STAKEHOLDERS IN SOUTH KIVU AND KINSHASA

In June and July 2021, CERC conducted specific, in-depth assessments, research, and studies on corruption and lack of accountability in the DRC education sector with 54 senior government education officials and 19 accountability practitioners and anti-corruption experts from Civil Society Organizations, teachers Unions, religious associations. The studies and assessments included holding 4 consultative workshops and the Integrity KAP Survey in 41 secondary schools in South Kivu and Kinshasa and a compilation of existing studies on corruption, youth participation, and accountability-related issues.

The studies' findings and recommendations were assessed and used as a reference to influence policy changes or stimulate further debate on the corruption and accountability issues in the DRC education sector.

RESULT 2:

CERC PARTICIPATED IN THE ANTI-CORRUPTION STATES-GENERAL ORGANIZED BY THE MINISTRY OF JUSTICE

From 19 to October 23, 2021, CERC participated in the Anti-Corruption States-General organized by the Ministry of Justice to support the United Nations Development Program (UNDP). The purpose of the State-General was to diagnose the root causes of corruption and propose recommendations for improvements.

The 5-day meeting allowed CERC to share its formulations and recommendations for the effective implementation of anti-corruption measures in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. It was an opportunity for CERC to discuss with government officials the transparency of the UNCAC review mechanism and the Civil Society's role.

RESULT 3:

CERC PARTICIPATED IN THE VALIDATION WORKSHOP OF THE NEW DR CONGO ANTI-CORRUPTION STRATEGY

From November 29 to December 3, 2021, CERC was invited to contribute to the development and validation workshop of the **New National Anti-Corruption Strategy** organized by the DR Congo Prevention and Anti-Corruption Agency (APLC). APLC developed this strategy with the support of state and non-state experts based on the 2010 national strategy and the recommendations from the November 2021 Anti-Corruption States-General.

RESULT 4:

CIVIL SOCIETY INDEPENDENT REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS CONVENTION AGAINST CORRUPTION (UNCAC)

The Democratic Republic of Congo has been a ratifier of the United Nations Convention against Corruption since September 23, 2010. By ratifying this binding international instrument, the DRC has committed itself to promoting and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more effectively.

As an active member of the UNCAC Coalition, in June 2021, CERC has been commissioned by the Coalition to conduct the CSO Parallel assessment of the UNCAC implementation by the Democratic Republic of the Congo in its second cycle covering Chapter II (Preventive Measures) and Chapter V (Asset Recovery).

As a methodology, CERC met between June 11 to December 1, 2021, with state and non-state actors to collect data and assess the implementation of UNCAC provisions by the Democratic Republic of Congo in law and practice. The research's findings were used to produce a parallel civil society report highlighting the Democratic Republic of Congo's efforts, evidence of good practices, and gaps in implementing preventive and punitive anti-corruption and asset recovery measures.

The UNCAC articles and topics that receive particular attention in CERC parallel assessment in 2021 are those covering preventive anti-corruption policies and practices (Article 5), preventive anti-corruption bodies (Article 6), public sector employment (Article 7.1), codes of conduct, conflicts of interest and asset declarations (Arts. 7, 8 and 12), reporting mechanisms and whistleblower protection (Arts. 8.1 and 8.4 and 13.2), political financing (Article 7.3), public procurement (Article 9.1), the Management of public finances (Article 9), judiciary and prosecution service (Article 11), private sector transparency (Article 12), access to information and participation of society (Arts. 10 and 13.1), and measures to prevent money laundering (Article 14). It also covers the articles covering anti-money laundering (Articles. 52 and 58), measures for direct recovery of property (Arts. 53 and 56), confiscation tools (Article 54), international cooperation for purposes of confiscation (Articles 51, 54, 55, 56 and 59) and the return and disposal of confiscated property (Article 57).

IMPACT REACHED THROUGH GOAL 1 IN 2021

- Reliable sources of reference on corruption and lack of accountability issues in the Democratic Republic of Congo are available for the public and stakeholders to use.
- Education stakeholders, especially, Senior education officials, teachers, students, principals, and parents, are more precisely aware of the specific corruption issues that matter to students and the whole education sector. This awareness will generate a more incredible reaction to corrupt acts and stronger demand for integrity.
- 2 projects aiming to improve transparency and accountability of education policy were developed using the research's findings.

PLAN FOR 2022:

To ensure public acceptance, partnership, and ownership of the findings from the above studies and research, CERC will:

- Hold a press conference to publish the Civil Society Report on the UNCAC implementation by the DRC between 2016–2021.
- Work closely with other relevant stakeholders, including the Congolese Government's Anti-Corruption Agency (APLC), Anti-Corruption civil society organizations, media, and other professional research institutes, to advocate with relevant government bodies to implement recommendations.



Figure 2: Senior officials and CERC staff during Consultative Workshop In Kinshasa. Photo: CERC

GOAL 2



BUILD AND SUPPORT PARTNERSHIPS AND COALITIONS OF CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS TO FIGHT CORRUPTION MORE EFFECTIVELY

Fighting corruption by any means in DRC is still very dangerous. Doing so safely requires a joint effort of many institutions and individuals from all different societal spectrums, including state and non-state actors and individuals.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

As part of reaching Goal 2 of our Strategic Plan, CERC consulted national and local anti-corruption organizations, including **la Ligue Congolaise Contre la Corruption (LUCOCO)**, **l'Association pour l'Accès à la Justice (ACAJ)**, **la Coalition des Organisations Congolaises de Lutte Contre la Corruption (COCOCULO)**, **l'Observatoire pour les Dépenses Publiques (ODEP)** to set up a Coordination mechanism through which regular dialogues and exchange of information among these stakeholders and individuals, such as the high-level anti-corruption dialogue, can be held.

The coordination mechanism aims to promote effectiveness and efficiency in using resources and expertise in implementing project activities to fight corruption. Moreover, it is also an excellent avenue to facilitate sharing experience and knowledge among active anti-corruption institutions and advocates to continue improving and adapting their work and strategy as needed on time.

PLAN FOR 2022 :

To fight corruption successfully also requires widespread public engagement on the issue. It also needs people to be equipped to act. Consequently, a focus of CERC in 2022 will be to build and support coalitions among institutions and individuals from across DRC. These will include relevant government ministries, NGOs, youth and students, media, private companies, law enforcement institutions, and local authorities. Wherever and whenever possible and appropriate, joint projects will be developed to address corruption issues and promote accountability and transparency. Relevant institutions and interested organizations will implement these in cooperation with the APLC.

EXPECTED RESULTS IN 2022

- Resources to fight corruption will be more effectively and efficiently distributed among key stakeholders, while effective learning avenues will be facilitated regularly.
- Cooperation and networking that multiply the impact of the work to fight against corruption will be established among many anti-corruption stakeholders.
- A more significant number of individuals and organizations in the Coalition will increase the influence to advocate for a better anti-corruption policy framework and law enforcement.

GOAL 3 ENGAGE CITIZENS AND YOUNG PEOPLE IN PROMOTING INTEGRITY MORE ACTIVELY

Raising awareness of the negative impacts of corruption among the citizens is essential, but it is even more crucial to secure their active participation in the fight against corruption. Youth become more engaged once they understand the benefits of their involvement and are provided with the means and skills.



Figure 3: Wivine Byamungu giving a presentation on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion, Kinshasa, August 2021. Photo: CERC

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

In 2021, CERC secured 858,942 US dollars to establish Integrity Clubs in 150 secondary schools in Kinshasa and South-Kivu aimed at educating youth not only about the harmful effects of corruption but also the skills and knowledge necessary for them to get involved in monitoring [the DRC Education and Training Sector Strategy 2016-2025](#) reform in 6 municipalities of South Kivu and 6 municipalities of Kinshasa with the goal for students, especially girls, receive accountable, inclusive and equitable quality education services.

We will do this by ensuring that (a) Students, teachers, and parents can successfully demand that the reform meets students' needs; (b) Integrity Clubs (ICs)¹ is established in the education system. (c) Education authorities are committed and can implement quality change, and d) the approach to transparently consult and collaborate is institutionalized in South Kivu and Kinshasa and replicated across the country.

PLAN FOR 2022 :

- Working closely with 10 parliamentarians, 50 senior education officials, and 6 NGOs to embed anti-corruption sector and transparency protocols in the education sector.
- Establishing 150 Integrity Clubs and 150 Education Clusters in selected secondary schools in Kinshasa and South Kivu.
- Training and supporting 2250 (14-19-year-old) students to become active agents of positive change championing anti-corruption and accountability behavior and demand that education reforms meet their needs.

EXPECTED RESULTS IN 2022

- Students have more opportunities and are encouraged to promote integrity in the education sector actively.
- Students receive Integrity Education through formal or informal education programs. The hope is that they will uphold such values as they enter the workforce and create greater demand for integrity in society.
- The Ministry of Education agrees to incorporate the anti-corruption and integrity Course in the education curriculum.
- Various youth engagement initiatives were established and led by youth organizations and networks, bringing more vital voices from youth in DRC.

¹ In Integrity Clubs, students representing all groups discuss integrity and learn skills to become active citizens. This includes how to access information and know their rights, how to engage powerholders and how to become monitors of education services and infrastructures using the tech tool EduCheck,

GOAL 4 **BUILD GOVERNANCE FOUNDATIONS AND OPERATIONAL STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES FOR SCALING UP ANTI-CORRUPTION AND INTEGRITY BUILDING WORKS IN OTHER PROVINCES**



For CERC to fight corruption successfully, we must be equipped with the necessary skills and expertise. Therefore, one of our prioritized areas for 2021 was to build the capacity of our organization and its core staff members.

ACHIEVEMENTS IN 2021

- CERC has successfully mobilized a group of eminent individuals who will establish a sustainable presence in Kinshasa, South-Kivu, and North-Kivu.
- CERC moved its Headquarters from local to National level (Uvira to Kinshasa) and is now nationally registered with the Ministry of Justice and has total legality and legitimacy to conduct its anti-corruption work across the country.
- To make CERC institutionally strong in its internal governance, leadership, credibility, and legitimacy in the country, in January 2021, CERC recruited a Consultancy Firm to develop the **Organization Development Plan, governance systems Manual, and policies**. As a result, all necessary legal frameworks and organizational policies, including bylaws, financial management manuals, and safeguarding and anti-corruption policies, are in place and implemented. And CERC and its core members have strong commitment and are working towards compliance with the criteria and requirements of donors.
- Tapping into the national expertise and resources, 6 CERC staff members benefited 2 pieces of training, including **Adaptive Learning** and the **Theory of Change development** delivered by learning experts recruited by OXFAM IBIS under the Education Out Loud Year Zero project.
- As part of our learning agenda developed OXFAM IBIS's Education Out Loud Funded Year Zero project, CERC recruited in August 2021 a Consultancy Firm to provide tailor-made pieces of training to all CERC staff, including **in program design and management, in Monitoring, Evaluation, Learning and Accountability (MEAL), in Advocacy and Policy Engagement, in Finance management and Internal Audit and Human and Logistics Management**.

PLAN FOR 2022 :

As CERC will progressively develop and monitor its institutional capacity, it will gradually be seen as a bridge to national anti-corruption resources and expertise on anti-corruption in 2022. It will begin to transform itself to be one of the capacity development institutions in anti-corruption work for DRC.

EXPECTED RESULTS IN 2022

- CERC's Board of directors comprises eminent individuals from diverse backgrounds and expertise (development, human rights, democratic governance, youth development, private sectors, and capacity development).
- CERC's Executive Director and Board are given opportunities to participate in regional and international anti-corruption events to learn from and network with other partners and international experts.
- Mutual understanding, trust, and confidence between Congolese institutions and CERC are improved.

YOUTH EXCEL – YOUTH REPRESENT RDC

FUNDED BY UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT (USAID)



Figure 4: Participants to Youth Excel project during a training in Kinshasa. Photo: CERC

OVERVIEW OF YOUTH EXCEL PROJECT



Figure 5: Youth Excel recipients during the training held by CERC in Kinshasa. Photo: CERC

In July 2021, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) through International Research & Exchanges Board (IREX)" has allocated \$73 653.89 to the Centre de Recherche sur l'Anti-Corruption (CERC) to implement the "Youth Excel" project in Kinshasa.

Launched on July 19, 2021, in Kinshasa and implemented by the **CENTRE DE RECHERCHE SUR L'ANTI-CORRUPTION** with technical support from the **SEARCH FOR COMMON GROUND**, Youth Excel is a 13-months Project that supports young leaders and youth-led and youth-serving organizations in Kinshasa to conduct quality implementation research; use data and learnings to improve their own cross-sectoral, positive youth development programs; synthesize data and learning; and engage in intergenerational dialogue with adult decision-makers so that together youth and adults can shape and advance data-informed development policies, agendas, and programs.

QUICK FACTS

- **IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH** is a mixed-methods approach to collecting data during program implementation to improve implementation. Implementation research helps teams learn how to adapt tested programs to new contexts, scale and achieve cost-effectiveness, and strengthen impact.
- Youth Excel addresses USAID's, IREX's, and CERC shared imperative to empower young people to solve local, national, and global development challenges using data-driven and research-based approaches.
- Youth Excel confronts barriers that youth face in leading development, including

the lack of a broadly credible research and evidence base for youth programming and other obstacles that prevent youth from influencing decisions about policy and funding in their societies.

- Youth Excel will build the global knowledge base on cross-sectoral youth development, support USAID's [Global LEAD initiative](#), expand USAID's Youth Lead network, and advance USAID's [Journey to Self-Reliance](#) agenda on sustainable local development.

GOALS

- Diverse youth in Kinshasa create and lead data-informed, inclusive youth development at local, national, and global levels.
- Youth-led and youth-serving programs strengthen their ability to gather and use evidence about their programs to strengthen and expand their impact.
- Youth in Kinshasa disseminate learning from their implementation research efforts so that the evidence can inform programs and policies.
- In Kinshasa, youth and adults use data as an inclusive intergenerational language to collaborate and inform decision-making.
- Youth-led and place-based networks facilitate collaboration between crucial development stakeholders, including public, private, and civil society actors, to expand development impact.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES

- **SUPPORT YOUTH ORGANIZATIONS AND NETWORKS:** Support youth-led and youth-serving organizations and youth-led, issue-based collaborative networks in Kinshasa to address local development issues through implementation research.
- **STRENGTHEN SKILLS:** Build youth's skills in digital leadership, data leadership, and advocacy.
- **BE INCLUSIVE:** Prioritize gender and social inclusion and use power equity tools to ensure that every activity is inclusive.
- **SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION RESEARCH:** Strengthen networks of youth researchers in Kinshasa to support implementation research activities.
- **STRENGTHEN INTERGENERATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS:** Work through issue-based collaborative networks and data summits to facilitate dialogue between youth and adults.
- **ENGAGE THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE SECTORS:** Build partnerships to support youth-led data and learning.
- **PROMOTE RESEARCH:** Synthesize and disseminate youth's evidence and learning.

- **SUPPORT ADVOCACY:** Leverage youth-led research and adults' support to influence development agendas and policies.

RESULTS ACHIEVED IN 2021

- 10 youth-led and youth-serving organizations, including 1 LGBTQI-led organization and 2 organizations led by People Living with Disability selected to form the Issue-Based Collaborative Network (ICON) in Kinshasa.
- 6 CERC staff members trained in Positive Youth Development, Implementation Research approach, and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion.
- 20 participants from 10 ICON participants organizations trained in Implementation Research approach and Gender Equality and Social Inclusion.

CERC GRANTED SPECIAL CONSULTATIVE STATUS AT THE UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL (ECOSOC)



In July 2021, the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) granted the special consultative status to the Centre de Recherche sur l'Anti-Corruption (CERC) upon recommendation of the Committee on NGOs, which comprises 19 Member States.

Depending on the level, Consultative status gives NGOs several rights to participate in the UN's work, present their views, and deliver testimony. Organizations enjoying general and special status can attend the Council's meetings and circulate statements. Special consultative status is granted to non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have special competence in, and are concerned with, only a few fields of activity covered by the ECOSOC.

In CERC's case, our work straddles corruption and human rights. Being awarded Special Consultative Status means that CERC's advocacy work with the UN will be a little bit easier as this will allow us access to high-level sessions and facilitate easier participation within these processes.

ECOSOC serves as the central forum for formulating policy recommendations addressed to member states and the United Nations system.

ECOSOC engages a wide variety of stakeholders in a productive dialogue on sustainable development through programmatic meetings. Consultative status provides NGOs with access to ECOSOC and its many subsidiary bodies, the various human rights mechanisms of the UN ad-hoc processes on small arms, and special events organized by the President of the UN General Assembly.

The Consultative Status award follows a rigorous application and thorough vetting of an organization's governance and financial systems, including its credibility as a leader in its field.

"CERC is very grateful for this recognition and the opportunities it presents for our global advocacy work. We will use this Consultative Status to strengthen our work championing anti-corruption, human rights, and governance; in the Democratic Republic of the Congo."

STRUCTURE, GOVERNANCE, AND MANAGEMENT

The organization started as a Non-Profit Association in 2017. Today its operations are governed by its Statutes dated April 15, 2017 (as amended in May 2021). Centre de Recherche sur l'Anti-Corruption is registered under Law 004/2001 as a Public Utility Organization under registration number F92/42579.

GOOD GOVERNANCE

The governing structure of our local organization is transparent and conforms to relevant laws. We seek to follow the principles of best governance practices.

We have :

- **A GOVERNING BODY** that supervises and evaluates the executive director oversees the program and budgetary matters. It defines overall strategy, is consistent with the organization's mission, ensures that resources are used efficiently and appropriately, that performance is measured, that financial integrity is assured and that social commitment is maintained.
- **WRITTEN PROCEDURES** determining the appointment, responsibilities, and terms of members of the governing body, preventing and managing conflicts of interest.
- **A REGULAR GENERAL MEETING** with authority to appoint and replace members of the governing body.

The Board meets quarterly. Its role is one of governance and strategic oversight. It approves the budget, operational and strategic plans, appoints the President and Chief Executive, and approves overall policy concerning staff employment. The Board contributes in many ways to aspects of CERC's work, for example, through sub-committees, approving strategy, approving new policies, and advising on fundraising. The Board also determines significant issues that affect CERC's public image - for example, whether to endorse campaigns promoted by other organizations, engage in fundraising forms that might be deemed sensitive, and any issues with significant legal implications. All other decisions are delegated to the Chief Executive, who consults the Board collectively or individually where they have the expertise to contribute or are thought likely to have strong views on a particular issue.

PROFESSIONAL MANAGEMENT

We manage our organizations professionally and effectively. Our policies and procedures seek to promote excellence in all respects.

- **FINANCIAL CONTROLS**: internal financial control procedures ensure that all funds are used effectively and minimize the risk of misused funds. We follow principles of best practices in financial management.
- **EVALUATION**: we seek to improve our effectiveness on an ongoing basis. We have defined evaluation procedures for our boards, staff, programs, and projects based on mutual accountability.
- **PARTNERS**: our organizational integrity includes ensuring that our partners also meet the highest standards of honesty and accountability and that they take all steps to ensure that they have no dealings with organizations or persons involved in illegal or unethical practices.
- **HUMAN RESOURCES**: our performance and success reflect the quality of our staff volunteers and management practices, and we are committed to investing in human resource development. Remuneration and benefits strike a balance between public expectations of nonprofit organizations and the need to attract and retain the staff that we need to fulfill our mission. Our human resources policies seek to conform fully with relevant international and national labor regulations, in addition to applying the best voluntary sector practices in terms of team member and volunteer rights and safety, health and hygiene at work, and work/life balance. Human resources policies include procedures for evaluating the performance of all staff regularly.
- **BRIBERY AND CORRUPTION**: human resources policies expressly prohibit acts of bribery or corruption by staff or other persons working for or on behalf of the organization.
- **WHISTLE-BLOWERS**: staff members are encouraged to draw management's attention to activities that may not comply with the law or our mission and commitments.

OUR POLICIES AND REGULATIONS

Our legitimacy is derived from the quality of our work and the recognition and support of the people with and for whom we work, in addition to our donors and the wider public. CERC is committed to openness, transparency, and honesty about its structures, objectives, policies, and activities, and we communicate actively to stakeholders and make information publicly available.

As a small organization, we know how difficult it is to formalize policies and procedures. So we're committed to sharing our policies for your use and will update the policies provided here on an ongoing basis. Feel free to use them and contextualize them for your organizational needs.

- 001 – Human resources Policy
- 002 – Administrative, Financial, Accounting and Procurement Policy,
- 003 – General Risk Management Policy
- 004 – Travel Policy
- 005 – Environment Protection Policy
- 006 – Safeguarding Policy
- 007- Gender Equality and Social Inclusion Policy
- 008 – Data Protection Policy
- 009 – Social Media Policy

- 010 – Human Trafficking Policy
- 011 – Recruitment and Staff Evaluation Policy
- 011.2 CERC Organogram
- 012 – Anti-Corruption and Gift Policy
- 013 – Anti-harassment policy and complaint procedure
- 014 – Conflicts of Interest Policy

Bylaws and membership policy

- 001- Bylaws
- 002- Membership Policy

OUR ANTI-CORRUPTION POLICY

In 2020, CERC revised its policy to align it to evolving best accountability practices in the nonprofit sector. The policy aims to prevent fraud and corruption in CERC-supported projects and contracts at the local and national levels.

Download our [**Anti-Corruption and Anti-Bribery Policy**](#)

OUR WHISTLEBLOWING POLICY

Our Whistleblowing policy supports our staff and stakeholders to speak up about unacceptable behavior and wrongdoing. There is an independent, confidential reporting mechanism for teams or stakeholders who don't feel comfortable reporting malpractice to the relevant CERC governance body. Find out more about our Whistleblowing mechanism: [**HERE**](#).

RECOGNITION AND THANKS



As always, we owe a debt of gratitude first to our staff working on the frontlines of corruption, at significant personal risk, to make integrity work for the people. We continue to be inspired by their bravery and are honored to be working with them.

As in previous years, we could not have achieved our goals without the funding support of a range of donors and supporters.

We are grateful to the following governments and multilateral bodies for their financial support: the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the OXFAM IBIS, and the US Agency for International Development (USAID).

As in previous years, we would like to thank Twilio.org for providing us with the US \$6500 to support our Covid-19 Vaccine education project and the Microsoft Corporation for providing Microsoft 365 Business Premium Licenses of US\$ 24,000, which help us to host our Professional Emails until 2030.

Last but not least, we would like to thank the staff and Advisory Council member, who has dedicated significant time and effort to make sure that the organization has a long-lasting and positive impact on those living in poverty.

**Heri Bitamala
Executive Director**



CENTRE DE RECHERCHE SUR L'ANTI-CORRUPTION

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